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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT REORGANIZED

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Alberta Environment department re-organized

The Honourable W. J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment, has announced that his department was re-organized effective December 1, 1972.

The department will be re-aligned into three service units, each under the direction of an assistant deputy minister.

The department re-organization, and an outline of the department's role, were formally approved by the Executive Council August 22, 1972.

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December 1972

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Honourable W.J. Yurko
Minister

Dr. E.E. Ballantyne
Deputy Minister

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Mr. Yurko points out that "the concept is not to build up a large staff, but rather to have a well co-ordinated, efficient, multi-disciplined core staff of minimal size, plus the utilization of staff from other Departments as required for enforcement, planning, and services."

He lists the main advantage as increased efficiency through better co-ordination and centralization.

A new committee composed of the Minister, deputy minister, assistant deputies and the chairman of the Environment Conservation Authority will also be established to concentrate on long-term strategic planning for environmental protection through prevention.

Mr. Yurko defines the department's role as promoting "a balance between resource management, environmental protection and the quality of life.

"In essence, the role of government is to emphasize prevention rather than treatment, on the basis that this principle is logical, practical and more economical.

"With environmental matters, this means that the government needs more co-ordination, more comprehensive input and more long-term planning.

"Thus, the people of Alberta can be better assured of the development of the province's resources to enable a good quality of life in five, 50, or 500 years from now."

The department now consists of three services, each headed by an assistant deputy minister. They are the Environmental Protection

Services, the Environmental Engineering Support Services, and the Environmental Planning and Research Services.

The Environmental Protection Services will consist of the Pollution Control Division, responsible for pollution sampling and monitoring, and enforcement; the Standards and Approvals Division, responsible for establishing standards and issuing approvals for industrial effluents, sewage treatment systems, and waste created by agriculture and forestry; and the Earth Sciences and Licensing Division, charged with water rights licensing and administration, and groundwater inventory, utilization and control.

The Environmental Engineering Support Services consists of the Technical Services Division, responsible for surveying, land acquisition, river engineering and hydrology; the Design and Construction Division, responsible for river design and construction of water control projects, materials testing, and project supervision; and the Water Resources Management Division which implements and manages water resource programs, inspects, operates and maintains water development projects, and enforces water resources legislation.

The Environmental Planning and Research Services is made up of the Research Secretariat, the Environmental Research Trust, data bank and library, the Interdepartmental Relations and Land Conservation Division, responsible for co-ordination, surface reclamation and conservation, land development and use, and contact with industry in emergency matters; and the Planning Division, which looks after environmental impact studies, long range planning, supply and demand analysis and support services for strategic planning.

The assistant deputy minister for Environmental Planning and Research Services will be responsible for intergovernmental negotiations.

In addition, the General Services Division, responsible for internal services, information and education, will report directly to the deputy minister.

Regional water resources and pollution control offices located throughout the province will be consolidated into departmental offices.

At the present regional offices are located in Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, Peace River, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray.

ASSISTANT DEPUTIES NAMED

The Honourable W. J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment, has announced the following have been appointed assistant deputy ministers of his department: E. E. Kupchanko, in charge of Environmental Protection Services; W. Solodzuk, in charge of Environmental Engineering Support Services, and R. E. Bailey, in charge of Environmental Planning and Research Services. The deputy minister is Dr. E. E. Ballantyne.

Mr. Bailey has been director of the Water Resources Division since 1966, and has been employed with the division for 23 years.

Mr. Kupchanko has been director of the Pollution Control Division of the department for the past year. He has been engaged in Alberta government pollution control work since 1963.

Mr. Solodzuk has been employed by the Water Resources Division for the past 20 years, most recently as Chief Engineer since 1966.

Major resource issues identified at workshop

Three hundred delegates from across Canada have selected 12 major resource issues which are to be given top priority by the Man and Resources Program over the coming year.

Ranging from a need for better citizen participation in the environmental decision making process to the effect of foreign ownership, to the ecological and cultural effect of northern development, the issues reflect the deep concern of people across the country for the preservation of their environment.

The workshop held at Montebello in early November climaxes a year of work by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers. The Man and Resources Program was established to identify the priorities of Canadians regarding our resources and a two-year public participation schedule was drawn up.

The workshop marks the halfway point and next year, in 1973, the issues that have been identified at the workshop will be examined and discussed by task forces and citizens' groups.

Next fall, a national conference will be held in Toronto and a final, definitive list of guidelines for the use of Canada's resources will be established.

It will be presented to all of the provincial governments and the federal government, who, jointly, support the Man and Resources Program.

Following is a brief summary of each of the 12 issues which were selected by the workshop delegates:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION The citizen participation group was concerned that in order to participate people always seem to have to beat the system. The group is concerned about the lack of availability and access to environmental information. They are concerned that there is often an inherent distrust of political and institutional manoeuvring and a complete alienation between decision makers in both the public and private sector, and the citizen.

There must be provision to the citizen of expertise to contend with experts; provision of methods to resolve conflicting legitimate interests and provision of responsive and accountable two-way communications systems. Greater sensitivity to the diversity of community needs must be exercised in order to generate group identity and involvement.

Regarding environmental law the group stated it is imperative that our legislative bodies derive, in consultation with the citizenry, an Environmental Bill of Rights which will ensure citizens the right to be involved in decisions, to embark on large development projects, to provide citizens with rights of litigation, rights to appeal, and compensation, and to develop the principles by which our governments will manage our environment.

POPULATION size, growth and distribution are dimensions of the way in which the human resource has impact on the environment. Canada needs to establish a commission on population policy now to cover such items as optimum population size, immigration, our role in international population problems and especially the problems of distribution - urban, metropolitan and rural. Such population policy should incorporate as much personal freedom of choice as possible and should be incorporated in the formal process of planning.

GROWTH ETHIC AND SOCIAL VALUES: As a result of the deteriorating environmental quality and socio-cultural problems evident in Canadian society, a change in attitude from the growth ethic (more is better) to one of living in harmony with the total life scheme is essential to the future of this planet.

Proposals to implement this change in attitude include development of dynamic dialogue within our social, religious and political structures concerning the concept of the work ethic, steady-state economics and alternative life styles; and detailed research into the national and international implementations of the transition to steady-state economics.

QUALITATIVE & QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING:
A DYNAMIC INVENTORY OF MAN & RESOURCES

There is a general lack of data, both qualitative and quantitative available to decision-makers for their utilization in making decisions on environmental problems, economic problems and combinations of these problems. This must be rectified through the establishment of

an "information bank". This would include in broad terms inventories of present resources and the establishment of new inventories. These would be available to anyone involved in decision-making to help prevent ecologically harmful decisions.

EDUCATION: We must as Canadians live in harmony with our natural and man-created environment. We must have knowledge of our environment, our impact on it and the influence we exert on our environment.

Environmental awareness is the cultural imperative for Canadians. Formal education through all institutions and informal communication through all media and agencies are the immediate task set for the Man & Resources Year.

Specific issues were set for the Education Task Force. They include: public access to government information for environment awareness; a national promotional campaign to foster environmental awareness; utilizing the community as resource in environmental education; injection of environmental education in all levels of schooling throughout the nation; identify those things that influence our attitudes and values for the environment.

LONG TERM PLANNING IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND USE: The long term planning in resource use issue group concluded that changing demands are being made of a finite resource base. The group adopted a basic policy guideline which requires that the use of land be dictated by the productive, ecological and recreational capability of the resource rather

than merely current proximity and economic factors. It was agreed that the short term dollar can not be allowed to destroy any more land and resources.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Owing to the stresses of urbanization, industrialization and intensive agricultural production on man and resources, Canada suffers from lack of appropriate measures for the protection and restoration of the quality of the environment. The issue group under the heading of environmental protection has set out to define specific concerns involving legislation, air, water, land, food and chemicals, and development, to deal with this lack of environmental protection.

It is the intention of the group that action be taken to rectify the problems behind these concerns. Recommended actions are given for each concern as proposals toward solving the problems.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT: This issue group has identified 10 items which they considered as priority problems in Northern Canada. They are: communications; human resources; transportation; political evolution for the north; relations between southern and northern Canada; wildlife management; American exploitation of Canada's natural resources; urbanization; northern development; environment and pollution. It is hoped that the Man and Resources Program will investigate these and report on them in depth at the national conference.

INTEGRAL PLANNING & COORDINATION: Given the important change in our society, we recognize the need for new policies that would answer

the social and economic requirements of all Canadians.

Those policies are in the areas of information, education, consultation and participation. Consequently, we request our governments to initiate necessary legislation to facilitate the implementation of the above statements.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP: The extent and control of foreign ownership in Canada. If one accepts that ownership or control of our human and natural resources is essential to create the freedom to utilize them, then it is desirable that Canadians assure ownership and/or control of such resources. It is essential that the people of Canada whose views have been funnelled through the issue groups be evaluated and implemented as soon as possible.

OWNERSHIP: The issue raised regarding ownership gives rise to a conflict of interest between public vs. private interest. The conflict covers a large spectrum, such as land, utilities, services, resources, media, publishers, energy production and development and exploitation. It is our hope that the ensuing task force will give this an indepth study, ready for the 1973 conference.

ENERGY: When one considers the matter of energy, its vital importance is evident. The tremendous increase in demand makes us keenly aware of the dwindling supplies and the urgent need for conservation, research and new methods. It is recommended that these issues be examined in depth for the national conference next fall.

The workshop opened on Monday, October 30, when delegates met for the first time in cross-sectional groups to review the issues that

they had selected in the regional meetings. Throughout the week, these were narrowed down to the 12 major issues and plans were made for Man and Resources activities throughout next year.

At the beginning of the workshop, a number of delegates questioned the structure and practicality of the programme, but all of the participants united in their selection of priority issues. The workshop has also declared that 1973 should be known as "Man and Resources Year" in Canada and a national conference is set for November 4 - 9, 1973 in Toronto.

Alberta takes part in Man and Resources program

Man and Resources workshops were conducted throughout Alberta during 1972. The specific objectives of the Alberta program were to identify environmental issues which most concern the individual and to rank these in order of priority; to involve a cross-section of Albertans interested in resource management and the future in free and easy discussion, so that the individual's expression, even through conflict and controversy, will be taken into account; and to stimulate an interest and awareness in broad resource management problems in Alberta, thereby providing an interchange of ideas about people's concerns.

Seventeen local workshops were held in rural areas. Attendance varied from 14 to 100 persons. These local meetings identified

the problems as they faced the people in that area, and these were discussed and ranked in order of priority, and solutions discussed. Each local meeting chose delegates to go to regional meetings, which were held in Westlock, Consort and Lethbridge.

At the regional workshops, local problems were discussed again, and ranked in order of priority of the total region. From these meetings, delegates were chosen for the provincial workshops which were held in Calgary and Edmonton.

At the provincial workshops, delegates from the rural meetings, and delegates from Calgary and Edmonton, met to arrive at an outline of concerns in northern and southern Alberta.

Major environmental issues identified at the Calgary meeting were production and consumption, urbanism, land classification, pollution, attitudes in education, and culture, recreation and leisure.

The Edmonton meeting listed the major concerns as recreation, education, human resources exploitation, quality of life, the need to improve communication and cooperation, attitudes and values, non-renewable resource exploitation, population distribution, renewable resources, zone planning and land use, population, planning and research, and pollution.

Nine delegates were chosen by the provincial workshops to attend the national workshop in Montebello.

They were Mrs. Irene McKinley of Medicine Hat, Olleamar Lenge of Claresholm, Burt Ellison, Don Dickson and Grant McNab of Calgary, Ken Jensen and Adrian Jones of Edmonton, Islen Cole of Coronation and Phil Fluet of Meadowview.

Study launched into forestry practises

A nine-month long study will soon be launched to evaluate timber harvesting systems, reforestation methods and results and road construction and related requirements in Alberta.

Conducting the study will be C. D. Schultz and Co. Ltd. The company has employed several Albertans to serve on the study, especially in its ecological aspects.

The Schultz and Co. proposal was one of 13 submitted. The selection committee consisted of representatives of the Department of the Environment, and the Fish and Wildlife Division and the Alberta Forest Service of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Scheduled for completion by September 1, 1973, the report will include any recommendations that will improve forest management techniques. The study will be conducted on an independent basis with information and data inputs from government and industrial sources where such material is available from records and files. The area selected for the study will extend from south of Grande Prairie to near the Brazeau Watershed, where a majority of timber harvesting will take place in 1973.

The maximum cost of the study will be \$250,000.

The study will assist the government in determining the degree to which forest resources should be developed and the controls that should be exercised over existing and future harvesting operations.

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